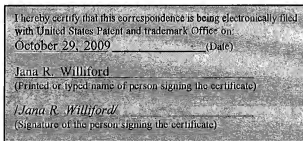


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johannes Becker
Serial No.: 10/706,365
Filed: November 12, 2003
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SECURING AN INTEGRATED
CIRCUIT AS AGAINST SUBSEQUENT REPROGRAMMING
Grp./A.U.: 2435
Examiner: Suman Debnath
Confirmation No.: 6816

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Sir:

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED WITH RCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)

Before continuing examination of the above-identified application, please refer to the below arguments and amend the claims as indicated.